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Mr. SPARKS presented a stamp used in the time of the Stamp Act, — a gift to the Society from Benjamin Moran, Esq., Assistant Secretary of the United-States Legation in London in 1859.

MAY MEETING.

A stated monthly meeting of the Society was held this day, Thursday, May 12, at noon; JARED SPARKS, LL.D., one of the Vice-Presidents, in the chair.

The Librarian announced donations from the Chicago Historical Society; Harvard College; the Essex Institute; the State of Connecticut; the New-York Agricultural Society; the Peabody Institute; the Tennessee State Library; the State of Rhode Island; the Royal Society of Northern Antiquaries; the Smithsonian Institute; Union College; General J. W. De Peyster; Rev. Caleb D. Bradlee; Henry B. Dawson, Winthrop Sargent, L. A. Huguet Latour, James Lenox, and Richard Warren, Esqs.; and from Messrs. Deane, Lamson, Quint, Robbins, Sibley, Washburn, and Winthrop, of the Society.

In the absence of the Corresponding Secretary, the Recording Secretary read letters from the Librarian of Bowdoin College and the Trustees of the Boston Athenæum, acknowledging the Society's attention in presenting the last volume of the Proceedings and the Catalogue to those institutions; also a letter from Hon. William R. Staples, of Rhode Island, accepting Corresponding Membership.

The Chairman of the Standing Committee, Mr. DEANE, communicated the following note, addressed to the Committee by Nathaniel Ingersoll Bowditch, Esq., presenting to the Society a file of original documents relating to the witchcraft trials:—

BROOKLINE, April 16, 1860.

To the Standing Committee of the Mass. Hist. Society.

GENTLEMEN,—More than fifty years ago, the late Hon. John Pickering, of Salem, came into possession of certain “Witchcraft Papers, 1692:” they were then in the hands of a person who had come by them honestly, and who gave them to him. Mr. Pickering considered that they probably once belonged to the files of the court of Salem, and, as he was a sworn officer of the court, had some scruples of conscience about retaining them himself; and therefore, after examining them, gave them to my late father. They remained in his possession till his death, in 1838; and were preserved in the house which he had occupied till it was taken down for the extension of Devonshire Street, in 1858. I then received them with the rest of my father’s papers and manuscripts.

An ancient possession is the very best of legal titles; and it is quite possible that these papers may never have been stolen. When the old Court House in School Street, Boston, was taken down to make way for the present building, several barrels full of papers were blowing about in the square,—the rightful property of any one who happened to pick them up. I cannot but hope that my title to these “Witchcraft Papers” had some equally honest origin.

Quite a number of these documents relate to George Burroughs’s case. There are several *billa veras*, or “true bills,” of indictment; several depositions, showing the frivolous character of the testimony offered; and several minutes of the examination held before the magistrates. Without possessing any great historical value, these papers are, as

it seems to me, quite curious ; and I have much pleasure in presenting them to the Society.

If the Committee find it practicable to have them arranged and handsomely bound, together with a table of contents, I wish that it may be done at my expense.

I remain very respectfully yours,

N. I. BOWDITCH.

Mr. Deane then exhibited the papers referred to ; some of which, especially those relating to the case of George Burroughs, which here follow, he read to the Society : —

Warrant for the Arrest of George Burroughs.

To JNO. PARTRIDGE, Field-marshal.

You are required, in their majesties' names, to apprehend the body of Mr. George Burroughs, at present preacher at Wells in the Province of Maine, and convey him with all speed to Salem, before the magistrates there, to be examined ; he being suspected for a confederacy with the Devil, in oppressing of sundry about Salem, as they relate. I having received particular order from the Governor and Council of their majesties' Colony of the Massachusetts for the same, you may not fail herein. Dated in Portsmouth in the Province of Hampshire, April 30, 1692.

ELISHA HUTCHINSON, *Major.*

By virtue of this warrant, I apprehended said George Burroughs, and have brought him to Salem, and delivered him to the authority there, this fourth day of May, 1692.

JOHN PARTRIDGE,

Field-marshal of the Province of New Hampshire and Maine.

PORTSMOUTH, May 2, 1692.

GENTLEMEN, — I received an order from the Governor and Council to apprehend Mr. George Burroughs, at present preacher at Wells, to be sent to Salem, there to be examined ; being suspected to have confederacy with the Devil in oppressing sundry persons about your town of Salem. Accordingly, I have sent him by John

Partridge, Marshal of this Province, except he meet with some other authority that will commit him to some other officer, to be conveyed as above; he pleading, it will be to his damage to go so far.

I am your humble servant, ELISHA HUTCHINSON.

To JNO. HATHORNE or JONATHAN CURWIN, Esqs., in Salem.

Essex, ss.

Anno Regis et Reginae Will'm et Maria,
nunc Angliæ, &c., Quarto.

The jurors for our sovereign lord and lady, the King and Queen, presents, That George Burroughs, late of Falmouth, within the Province of the Massachusetts Bay in New England, clerk, the ninth day of May, in the fourth year of the reign of our sovereign lord and lady, William and Mary, by the grace of God, of England, Scotland, France, and Ireland, King and Queen, Defenders of the Faith, &c., and divers other days and times as well before as after, certain detestable arts called witchcraft and sorceries wickedly and feloniously hath used, practised, and exercised, at and within the township of Salem, in the county of Essex aforesaid, in, upon, and against one Elizabeth Hubbard of Salem, in the county of Essex, single woman; by which said wicked arts, the said Elizabeth Hubbard, the ninth day of May, in the fourth year abovesaid, and divers other days and times as well before as after, was and is tortured, afflicted, pined, consumed, wasted, and tormented. Also for sundry other acts of witchcraft by said George Burroughs, committed and done against the peace of our sovereign lord and lady, the King and Queen, their crown and dignity, and against the forms of the statute in that case made and provided.

Witnesses: ELIZABETH HUBBARD.

MARY WALCOTT.

ANN PUTMAN.

N.B. [Two indictments for bewitching Mary Wolcott and Marcy Lewis, respectively, are drawn in precisely the same form as the above.]

1st JUNE, 1692.

Abigail Hobbs then witnessed before John Hathorne and Jonathan Corwin, Esqs., that, at the general meeting of the witches in the field near Mr. Parris's house, they saw Mr. George Burroughs, Sarah Good, Sarah Osborne, Bridgett Bishop *alias* Oliver, and Giles Cory, two or three nights ago. Mr. Burroughs came and sat at the

window, and told her he would terribly afflict her for saying so much against him ; and then pinched her. Deliverance Hobbs then saw said Burroughs ; and he would have tempted her to set her hand to the book, and almost shook her to pieces because she would not do it.

Mary Warren testifieth, that when she was in prison in Salem, about a fortnight ago, Mr. George Burroughs, Goody Nurse, Goody Procter, Goody Padderston, Abigail Soames, Goodman Procter, Goodman Darling, and others unknown, came to the deponent ; and Mr. Burroughs had a trumpet, and sounded it : and they would have had this deponent to have gone up with them to a feast at Mr. Parris's. And Goody Nurse and Goody Procter told her, this deponent, they were deacons, and would have had her eat some of their sweet bread and wine. And, asking them what wine that was, one of them said it was blood, and better than our wine ; but this deponent refused to eat or drink with them, and they then dreadfully afflicted her at that time. — Sworn, the 1st of June, 1692, before us,

JOHN HATHORNE, }
JONATHAN CORWIN, } *Assistants.*

Memo. — That, at the time of the taking of this deposition, Goody Nurse appeared in the room, and afflicted the deponents, Mary and Deliverance Hobbs, as they attested ; and also almost choked Abigail Hobbs, as also testified : and Mr. English then ran a pin into Mary's hand, as she attested.

The deposition of Mary Walcott, aged about seventeen years, who testifieth and saith, that on the latter end of April, 1692, Mr. George Burroughs, or his appearance, came to me, whom I formerly well knew ; and he did immediately most grievously torment me, by biting, pinching, and almost choking me, — urging me to write in his book : which I refusing, he did again most grievously torment me, and told me, if I would but touch his book, I should be well ; but I told him I would not for all the world. And then he threatened to kill me, and said I should never witness against him. But he continued torturing and tempting me till the 8th of May ; and then he told me he would have killed his first wife and child when his wife was in travail, but he had not power ; but he kept her in the kitchen till he gave her her death-wound. But he charged me, in the name of his gods, I should not tell of it. But immediately there appeared to me Mr. Burroughs's two first wives, all in their winding-sheets, whom

I formerly well knew ; and told me that Mr. Burroughs had murdered them, and that their blood did cry for vengeance against him. Also, on the 9th May, — being the day of his examination, — he did most grievously torment me during the time of his examination ; for, if he did but look on me, he would strike me down or almost choke me. Also, during his examination, I saw Mr. George Burroughs, or his appearance, most grievously torment Mary Lewes, Elizabeth Hubbard, Abigail Williams, and Ann Putnam ; and I believe in my heart that Mr. George Burroughs is a dreadful wizard, and that he has often afflicted and tormented me and the aforementioned persons by his acts of witchcraft.

Mary Walcott declared this writing to be a true evidence to the Jury of Inquest, Aug. 3, 1692, upon the oath she has taken. *Jurat in Curia.*

William and Mary, by the grace of God, of England, Scotland, France, and Ireland, King and Queen, Defenders of the Faith, &c.

We command you to warn and give notice unto John Peirce and John Lane, that they and every of them be, and personally appear forthwith, at the present Court of Oyer and Terminer holden at Salem, to testify the truth, to the best of their knowledge, on certain indictments exhibited against Mr. George Burroughs.

Hereof make return ; fail not.

Dated in Salem, Aug. 4, 1692, in the fourth year of our reign.

STEPHEN SEWALL, *Clerk.*

To the Constable of Manchester.

Aug. 4. — I have summoned the above-named, that they and each of them [appear] at time and place above written.

By me,

JOHN LEY.

The testimony of Mary Warren, aged twenty years or thereabouts, testifieth and saith, that, some time in July last, Mr. Burroughs pinched me very much, and choked me almost to death ; and I saw and heard him sound a trumpet, and immediately I saw several come to him, — as, namely, Captain Allding, Mrs. Cary, and Goody Pudeater and several others, — and they urged me to go along with them to their sacramental meeting. And Mr. Burroughs brought to me bread to eat, and wine to drink ; which I refusing, he did most grievously torment me, — urging me vehemently to write in his book. Also I have seen Mr. George Burroughs, or his appear-

ance, most grievously tormenting Mary Walcott and Ann Putnam ; and I verily believe in my heart, that Mr. George Burroughs is a dreadful wizard, and that he has several times tormented me and the aforesaid persons by his acts of witchcraft.

Mary Warren declared upon her oath, to the Jury of Inquest, that the above-written evidence is the truth. — Aug. 3, 1692.

Mary Webber, widow, aged about fifty-three years, testifieth and saith, that she, living at Casco Bay about six or seven years ago, when George Burroughs was minister at said place, and living a near neighbor to said Burroughs, was well acquainted with his wife, which was daughter to Mr. John Ruck, of Salem. She hath heard her tell much of her husband's unkindness to her, and that she dare not write to her father to acquaint him how it was with her, and so desired me to write to her father that he would please to send for her ; and told me she had been much affrighted, and that something in the night made a noise in the chamber where she lay, as if one went about the chamber : and, she calling up the negro to come to her, the negro, not coming, said that she could not come ; something stopped her. Then, her husband being called, he came up. Something jumped down from between the chimney and the side of the house, and ran down the stairs, and said Burroughs followed it down ; and the negro then said it was something like a white calf. Another time, lying with her husband, something came into the house, and stood by her bedside, and breathed on her : and she, being much affrighted at it, would have awakened her husband, but could not for a considerable time ; but, as soon as he did awake, it went away. But this I heard her say, and know nothing of it myself otherwise, except by common report of others also concerning such things. — Salem, Aug. 2, 1692.

MARY WEBBER.

PROVINCE OF THE MASSACHUSETTS BAY IN
ESSEX, ss. NEW ENGLAND.

The deposition of Thomas Greinslitt, aged about forty years, testifieth, that about the breaking-out of this last war, being at the house of Captain Scottows, at Black Point, he saw Mr. George Burroughs lift and hold out a gun of six-foot barrel or thereabouts ; putting the forefinger of his right hand into the muzzle of said gun, and so hold it out at arms'-end only with that finger. And further this deponent

testifieth, that, at the same time, he saw the said Burroughs take up a full barrel of molasses with but two fingers of one of his hands in the bung, and carry it from the stage-head to the door at the end of the stage without letting it down; and that Lieutenant Richard Hunniwell and Mr. John Greinslitt, and some other persons that are since dead, were then present.

Salem, Sept. 15, 1692. — Thomas Greinslitt appeared before their majesties' Justices of Oyer and Terminer, in open court, and made oath that the above-mentioned particulars and every part of them are true.

Attest :

STEP. SEWALL, *Clerk.*

The deposition of Thomas Putnam (aged forty years) and Edward Putnam (aged thirty-eight years), who testifieth and saith, that we have been conversant with several of the afflicted persons, as Mary Walcott, Mary Lewes, Elizabeth Hubbard; and we have seen them most dreadfully tormented; and we have seen dreadful marks in their flesh, which they said Mr. Burroughs did make by hurting them. But on 9th May, 1692, the day of the examining of Mr. George Burroughs, the above-said persons were most dreadfully tormented during the time of his examination, as if they would have been torn all to pieces, or all their bones put out of joint, and with such tortures as no tongue can express. Also, several times since, we have seen the aforesaid afflicted persons most dreadfully tormented, and grievously complaining of Mr. Burroughs for hurting them; and we believe that Mr. George Burroughs, the prisoner at the bar, has several times afflicted and tormented the aforesaid persons by acts of witchcraft.

THOMAS PUTNAM, *Jurat in Curia.*

Voted unanimously, That the thanks of the Society be presented to our associate, Mr. Bowditch, for his very valuable contribution to the archives of the Society; and that the papers presented by him be referred back to the Standing Committee, to be bound with an index.

Mr. QUINCY, in presenting "A Plan of the Town, and Chart of the Harbour, of Boston, exhibiting a View of the Islands, Castle, Fort, and Entrances into the said

Harbour," dated Feb. 1, 1775, offered the following remarks; viz.:—

The accompanying map I have found among my papers. Circumstances render it curious, and possibly important. It contains all the islands and the shores of the towns adjoining Boston, apparently with great accuracy as to their relative position. It is plainly published under the patronage of some one who did not apparently understand the spelling of the places in the vicinity. Thus, Roxbury is spelt Roxburgh; Quincy, Quinzey, — which is curious as it is placed on the position of my grandfather's farm when it was in Braintree, and seventeen years before the name of Quincy was given to the place. The ancient sizes of the islands in the harbor are indicated on this plan, as also the still earlier situation of them, by the indications of the former extent, and the lines of sand-banks adjoining. It is dated Feb. 1, 1775, — the very time when General Gage was erecting his fortifications against the Americans. It is certainly curious, may be important; and, if no similar plan exists, may probably be worthy republication in the Society's volumes.

Mr. Quincy requested that the map might be referred to the Standing Committee.

Mr. SAVAGE presented to the Society, and read, the first original paper, known to be extant, relating to the outbreak of the Pequot War: being a letter from Jonathan Brewster, dated from the Plymouth House, the 18th of June, 1636; addressed to the Worshipful John Winthrop, Governor of the fort in Connecticut River. The letter is as follows:—

WORSHIPFUL SIR, — Your last kindness with them formerly doth much oblige me to you to requite you according to my poor ability. In the mean time, I rest myself humbly thankful unto you for the

same ; being sorry I was not home when as your men came to my house. Sir, as yet, I have no intelligence from Plymouth concerning the business you spoke to me of, expecting daily ; which, as soon as I hear, I will certify you of their minds. Further, sir, I think it convenient to certify you concerning the Pequots, who continue still in their bloody minds towards the English. For, this week, having occasion to send my man to Mausick, the sachem thereof sent me word, that, upon the 23d of May last, they purposed to cut off our bark after she had done trading with them ; who, for that end, appointed eighty men in canoes suddenly in the night to surprise her : but, by God's overruling power, at the very instant, our men had a fair wind, and so, unknown to them, escaped the danger. And, further, there is reported there, that shortly they intend an invasion both of English and natives in this river. Therefore, sir, it is, as I take it, necessary that you give notice to boats as they pass up and down, not to be too secure : for I will assure you, if you please but to examine some boats, they have not a gun in their boat ; and, if there be any, you shall find them unserviceable. As also, that which I have complained of, many people goeth over land unarmed, to the hearting [heartening] of the enemy. As though we were so strong ourselves, or the enemy so weak, as that it is cowardice to fear any thing ; whereas, in wisdom, all things considered, neither is true. Thus much for present to your worship, lest I should be tedious ; and, with remembrance of my duty to yourself, I take my leave, and rest

Yours to be commanded,

JONATHAN BREWSTER.

From PLYMOUTH HOUSE, this 18th June, 1636.

Voted, That the thanks of the Society be given to Mr. Savage for this interesting relic, and that the letter be referred to the Committee of Publication.

Colonel ASPINWALL offered the following remarks regarding the Narragansett Patent of 1643, tending to show that it never was completed :—

I would call the attention of the Society to a document among the archives at the State House, dated 10th December, 1643, and purporting to be a charter, or patent, from the Par-

liamentary Board of Commissioners for Foreign Plantations, of which the Earl of Warwick was president, granting to the Governor, Assistants, and Freemen of the Massachusetts Company, "a track within the territory of America, called Narragansett Bay, — bordering N. and N.E. on Massachusetts; E. and S.E. on Plymouth Colony; S. on the ocean; and W. and N.W. inhabited by Indians, called Nahigannauks, or Narragansetts, — the whole track extending about twenty-five English miles to the Pequod River and Country."

This document has no seal, either public or private; nor any indication of enrolment or registration. It bears at foot only nine signatures, — Warwick, Manchester, Arthur Hazelrig, Samuel Vassall, Dennis Bond, Miles Corbitt, William Spurstowe, Benjamin Ruddyer, and another (which I could not decipher).*

As the ordinance by which the Board was created required the assent "of the greater number, or more," of the eighteen commissioners of which it consisted, to each of its acts, it is obvious that this pretended charter, signed by only nine, was not legally executed; and consequently was a mere nullity, devoid of all legal force and authority (Mass. Hist. Coll., Second Series, vol. ix. p. 185).

A false importance has sometimes been given to it in these days, by bringing it forward to justify the severities practised by our forefathers upon their weaker neighbors, and to vindicate their repeated usurpations of jurisdiction in the territory in question. But it is not mentioned by Winthrop or Hutchinson.

Roger Williams, in his letter to Mason, says (§ 6), that "some time . . . after our charter from the Parliament, the government of Massachusetts wrote to myself (then chief officer in this Colony), . . . requesting me to exercise no more authority, &c.; for . . . their charter was granted some

* In the opinion of the Hon. James Savage, the signature of Lord Roberts.

weeks before ours. I returned what I believed righteous and weighty . . . to my true friend Mr. Winthrop, the first mover of my coming into these parts ; and to that answer of mine I never received the least reply : only it is certain, that, at Mr. Gorton's complaint against Massachusetts, the Lord High-Admiral, the President, said openly, in a full meeting of the commissioners, that he knew of no other charter for these parts than what Mr. Williams had obtained ; and he was sure that charter, which the Massachusetts gentlemen pretended, had never passed the table (*Mass. Hist. Coll., First Series, vol. i. p. 278 ; 2 Winthrop, p. 220, 13th April, 1645*).

It is now quite clear that Roger Williams's account of the matter is indisputably true. An imperfect instrument, like this pretended charter, was not presentable, and could not have passed the Board. The probable reason for Winthrop's silence respecting it in his journal was his consciousness of its worthless character.

Mr. ROBBINS presented, as a donation from Rev. Jared M. Heard of Clinton, Mass., a bundle of original manuscripts connected with the trial of persons accused of being concerned in the burning of the convent at Charlestown.

Mr. SAVAGE announced in appropriate terms the decease of Sylvester Judd, Esq., of Northampton, Mass. ; and of Samuel Jennison, Esq., of Worcester, — the former a resident member of this Society : and presented copies of two newspapers, containing, the one, an obituary notice of Mr. Judd ; and the other, of Mr. Jennison.

Mr. PAIGE communicated the following tribute to the memory of Mr. Judd : —

Sylvester Judd, Esq., was born at Westhampton, 23d April, 1789. His father, Sylvester Judd, was son of Rev. Jonathan Judd of Southampton, who died 28th July, 1803, at the age of eighty-three, after a ministry of sixty years. His first American ancestor, Thomas Judd, was an early inhabitant of Cambridge; and, in 1635, resided nearly, if not exactly, on the spot since rendered memorable as the headquarters of Washington, — now the residence of our associate, Professor Longfellow. He removed with Mr. Hooker's congregation to Hartford; and, about ten years afterwards, was one of the first settlers of Farmington, where he was deacon of the church, and deputy to the General Court. About 1679, he removed to Northampton; and died there, 12th November, 1688. A monument was recently erected to his memory, in the Northampton Cemetery, by his descendant, our late associate, whose own body has since been deposited under its shadow.

Mr. Judd enjoyed no special advantages in his youth. He attended the common schools only until he was thirteen years old, when he became a clerk in his father's store; yet, by devoting his leisure to study, — frequently, also, encroaching on the hours ordinarily allotted to sleep, — he acquired such knowledge of the Greek, Latin, French, and Spanish languages, as enabled him to read them with tolerable convenience. But his taste led him chiefly, even from boyhood, to historical investigations, especially in regard to the early transactions in New England; and to such investigations he devoted a large portion of his life. Abandoning the business of a country merchant, which he had successfully conducted for ten or twelve years in his native town, he purchased, in 1822, the "Hampshire Gazette," then and now published in Northampton; to which place he removed. His new business was somewhat congenial to his taste; and the columns of his paper, for the thirteen years during which he was its editor as well as proprietor, bear witness to his diligence, and

exhibit some of the fruits of his favorite studies. He retired from the "Gazette" in 1835, having more than doubled its list of subscribers; assigning this characteristic reason for his retirement: "The truth is, I have become too sceptical in politics to be the conductor of a public press. I have but little confidence in politics, parties, and politicians." Subsequently, almost his whole time was devoted to his favorite studies; or, as he modestly says of himself in the "Judd Genealogy," he was "more employed in historical and genealogical researches than in any thing else." The time devoted to the arrangement of the public archives of Connecticut can scarcely be regarded as withdrawn from study: for among them he found and preserved many materials for the historical work which he contemplated; namely, a "History of the Connecticut Valley generally, and of Northampton and the neighboring Towns in particular." His collections for this purpose are said to fill about seventy-five volumes, containing probably fifteen or twenty thousand folio pages; but, like many others, he postponed the execution of his ultimate purpose, as his preparation was not so complete as he desired. I am not aware that he published the results of his investigations, except in the columns of his paper, and in a pamphlet of one hundred and twelve pages, 1856, entitled "Thomas Judd and his Descendants." Yet his labor was not in vain; for he freely contributed from the abundance of his treasures to his friends, whose public acknowledgments have frequently testified their indebtedness and their gratitude to him. About three years ago, however, at the urgent solicitation of his co-workers in this field of literature, he commenced the "History of Hadley;" doubtless designed as the first of a series of town-histories. Of this work, about four hundred and fifty pages had been printed when its author was struck down by paralysis. Less than a week afterwards, on the 18th of April, 1860, he departed this life, leaving an aged widow and several children. His son, the late Rev. Sylvester Judd,

of Augusta, Me., favorably known as an author, had died about seven years previously.

In recognition of his ardent and successful devotion to historical studies, Mr. Judd was elected a member of this Society in April, 1848. He duly appreciated the honor; but the distance of his residence prevented a frequent attendance on our meetings. Indeed, it is doubtful whether he was personally known to all our associates: but some of us knew him well; and I can confidently say, that all who knew him both respected and loved him. His deportment was gentlemanly, and his moral character as nearly spotless as may be expected among those who dwell in the flesh. Among all my acquaintances, I have scarcely known a more modest and unassuming, a more genial and companionable, or a more reverent, conscientious, and pure-minded man. His memory will be lovingly cherished by all who had the privilege to become thoroughly acquainted with him.

The Presiding Officer nominated Mr. Savage to prepare the customary memoir of Mr. Judd for the Society's Collections.

A letter was read from Octavius Pickering, Esq., requesting permission to examine the papers of the late General Heath, and other manuscripts, with a view to a memoir of Colonel Timothy Pickering.

An application was also made by Richard Cary Morse for the privilege of copying certain letters, which were specified by him, in order to further his purpose of preparing a memoir of his father, — Rev. Dr. Morse, of Charlestown.

These requests were referred to the Standing Committee, with authority to comply with them to the full extent allowable under the rules of the Society.